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**ABSTRACT****ELECTRONIC SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

- 10 A method for a person to sign a document (as defined herein) by use of an electronic pen (as defined herein), including the steps of capturing a hand signature (as defined herein) of the person; verifying the person's identity; generating a verification ID; then attaching the hand signature, the verification ID and an optical watermark to the document to complete the document signing process. Also disclosed is a method for generating a validated hand
- 15 signature (as defined herein) to a document including the steps of signing the document using an e-pen (as defined herein); creating a digest of the document; encrypting the hand signature within the electronic pen; generating a verification ID; incorporating the verification ID into the document; and integrating the digest into the document.

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